

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Subregion: EAST **Counties:** INYO AND MONO

Applicant: MONO COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Project Title: INYO AND MONO COUNTY'S COMMUNITY BASED LAND TENURE PLANNING

Reference Number: SNC 070327

PROJECT SCOPE

The project is to conduct education and visioning in Inyo and Mono counties to identify land tenure adjustment opportunities that best balance community needs, private property rights, land agency missions, and protection of critical land and water resources. Maintaining the integrity of riparian resources in this area, where such habitat is comparatively rare, is critical for many plant, fish, and wildlife species. The Owens River Watershed provides water to California's largest municipality, the City of Los Angeles. This educational and visioning project is supported through funds and in-kind donations from Mono County, Inyo County, Bureau of Land Management, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Fish and Game, and the Sierra Business Council in the amount of \$31,000. A grassroots community group, CAL-Exchange, has formed to support and encourage this effort. The group consists of business persons, developers, environmentalists, and community activists.

The project will include:

- Preparation of project action plan and visioning workshop's schedule and agendas;
- Community outreach and education workshops to teach participants about existing landownership status; land agency management policies related to exchanges, trades, and sales; agency constraints; land exchange; and acquisition opportunities;
- Eight visioning workshops to elicit input from participants on their ideas related to land use, community expansion, economic development, and protection of natural resources held throughout the region;
- Preparation of draft report including input from the education workshops and visioning workshops;
- Presentations (4) to County Supervisors and land agencies;
- Preparation of final report incorporating feedback from County Supervisors and relevant land agencies.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Project action plan and visioning workshops - develop schedule, agendas, maps, photos, presentations, press releases, outreach flyers and posters	April – June 2008
Community outreach and education workshops and visioning workshops (8)	July 2008 - June 2009
Complete and submit 6 month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Complete and submit 12 month progress report to SNC	April 2009
Preparation of draft report with presentations (4) to County Supervisors and land agencies	July 2009 - January 2010
Complete and submit 18 month progress report to SNC	October 2009

Preparation of final report based on Supervisor and land agencies feedback	March 2010
Final Report/Final Payment Request	April 1, 2010

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Planning	\$9,000
Educational outreach	24,000
Visioning workshops	81,000
Draft and final reports preparation	23,000
Administrative fees	20,550
GRAND TOTAL	\$157,550

Letters of Support:

- Sierra Business Council
- California Department of Fish and Game
- Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the authorization of this grant for the requested \$157,500.

Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here: Inyo and Mono Counties Community-Based Land Tenure Planning

With almost 97% of the land base in Inyo and Mono counties owned by the federal government and City of Los Angeles, there is a distinct lack of private land within and adjacent to existing communities available for community expansion and sustainability. As growth demands increase, many isolated private parcels are being proposed for residential subdivision. Development of these isolated parcels may be at odds with both counties' general plans and citizen desire to encourage growth adjacent to existing communities. Creating new subdivisions on these isolated parcels can also result in significant new demands for county services and infrastructure. These new developments can impact key wildlife habitat, compromise scenic values, and impair water quality and quantity. Additional groundwater pumping to provide water to these isolated subdivisions has the potential to impact aquifers and dependent ecosystems. The City of Los Angeles already diverts a significant amount of the surface and groundwater from the region.

In 2005, the Owens Valley Interagency Committee chartered a subcommittee to explore coordinating land ownership adjustment planning to meet both land agency and community expansion goals, as much as possible. The standing subcommittee consists of representatives from Inyo and Mono Counties, CA Department of Fish and Game, LADWP, City of Bishop, BLM, and the U.S. Forest Service. The subcommittee developed the Eastern Sierra Land Tenure Project to achieve the following: inventory all land agency potential disposal properties and make accessible on-line (<http://gis.mono.ca.gov/LandTenure/Index.htm>); widely disseminate database and information pertaining to land disposal policies, constraints, and opportunities; conduct community workshops to identify and prioritize areas and key land parcels desired by communities for expansion; and encourage all land agencies to use the inventory and community input to facilitate mutually beneficial land disposals and institutionalize policies to guide future land tenure adjustment in the region.

Inyo and Mono counties submit this SOG3 to fund completion of the Land Tenure project described above. \$157,550 in grant funds are requested to enable the counties and land agencies to contract with the Sierra Business Council and other qualified consultants to educate local residents and interested public about agency land policies and opportunities for expansion (expanding on an existing database and other information); seek community consensus on the desire for community expansion or not; and identify specific expansion needs and appropriate locations by conducting community visioning workshops in 8 or more east-side communities; and prepare and present summary workshop findings and recommendations, identifying short and long term land adjustment opportunities alternatives to the various land agencies.